

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-7 remain pending in the application pursuant to a previous election. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1 again stands rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Masakazu, JP 10-338534 (Masakazu) in view of Fisher, U.S. Patent No. 4,210,052 (Fisher). Claims 4-7 stand rejected as being obvious over Masakazu and Fisher in view of a more tertiary reference. Applicants traverse the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Aspects of the invention include a system for cutting on both sides of a bonded brittle material substrate having a first substrate and a second substrate. Two cutting devices each include a scribing portion for forming a scribing line, a breaking portion for breaking each respective substrate along the scribing line, and a backup portion for supporting the substrate. The first backup portion backs up the second scribing portion, and the second backup portion backs up the first scribing portion.

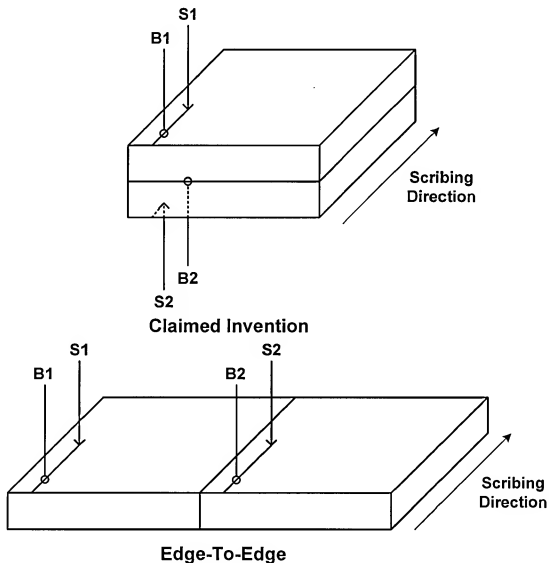
According to the Examiner, Masakazu discloses a cutting system having one scribing portion 43, one breaking portion 50, and one purported backup portion 42 positioned ***on one side of a substrate***. Fisher discloses a device in which multiple cutting systems 12 are provided so as to form multiple longitudinal scoring lines, ***also on one side of a substrate***. The Examiner states that it is obvious to modify the device of Masakazu by providing multiple cutting systems as disclosed in Fisher to arrive at the claimed invention. Applicants previously argued that a combination of the references does not result in, disclose, or suggest providing scribing systems on ***both sides*** of a bonded composite substrate as claimed.

The Examiner, however, has taken the position that a "bonded brittle material substrate," as referenced in the claims, can be two glass substrates

bonded "**edge to edge**". (See Final Office Action at pages 2, 3, and 4.) Even assuming the claim term "bonded brittle material substrate" were interpreted as encompassing edge-to-edge substrate components, the references do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. The Examiner's suggestion of an edge-to-edge configuration would result in an illogical arrangement of the components.

Claim 1 recites in part that "the first cutting device further comprises a back up portion which faces the second scribing means . . . in correspondence with the portion to be scribed," and "the second cutting device further comprises a back up portion which faces the first scribing means . . . in correspondence with the portion to be scribed." Such features would not be present in an "edge-to-edge" substrate configuration as being suggested by the Examiner. Simplified figures below depict a comparison of the claimed configuration of the scribing and backup portions, as compared to a hypothetical edge-edge-to configuration.

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As is apparent from the above, in the claimed configuration the first backup portion (B1) faces the second scribing means (S2) in correspondence with the portion being scribed by S2, and in this manner B1 "backs up" the scribing of S2. Similarly, the second backup portion (B2) faces the first scribing means (S1) in correspondence with the portion being scribed by S1, and in this manner B2 "backs up" the scribing of S1. No such backing up feature could occur in an edge-to-edge configuration.

In particular, assuming such edge-to-edge configuration as depicted above, the first back up portion (B1) could not face the second scribing means (S2), and the second back up portion (B2) could not face the first scribing means (S1), **at all**. There simply would be no backing up function in an edge-to-edge configuration. The Examiner states that this feature could mean "facing in a direction in the plane of the glass substrate". Such an interpretation is unreasonable because it would not result in the backing up function being recited in the claimed invention.

In addition, an edge-to-edge configuration formed by doubling the features of Masakazu, as suggested by the Examiner, would not result in scribing and backup portions "facing" each other even in the plane of the glass substrate. As seen in the above figure, B1 "faces" B2 and S1 "faces" S2 in the plane of the glass substrate. The claimed configuration still would not result from the Examiner's interpretation of the facing direction.

Furthermore, the "facing" orientation being suggested by the Examiner is not "in correspondence with the portion to be scribed," as is also recited in claim 1. In an edge-to-edge configuration, the **first** backup portion would not be positioned opposite the **second** scribe line, and the **second** backup portion would not be positioned opposite the **first** scribe line. The claimed "correspondence" would thus be lacking.

In this vein, Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would understand the term "bonded brittle material substrate" to mean two substrates bonded with their planar faces directed toward each other rather than edge to edge. Bonding planar substrates edge to edge would not form a composite bonded substrate as the term is understood in the art, for in the relevant field, conventional bonded substrates are layered. Indeed, there is no disclosure or suggestion anywhere in the specification or figures that would lead one skilled in the art to understand the bonded substrate as being edge-to-edge substrate components.

Accordingly, arranging two substrates edge-to-edge is incompatible with the claimed orientations of the various elements. The claims, therefore, are not obvious over Masakazu in view of Fisher, and the rejections should be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reason, claims 1 and 4-7 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988, reference number YAMAP0962US.

Respectfully submitted,

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